



CMS

2025 CMS National Report

Deadline for submission of the National Reports: : 30 September 2025

Reporting period: from May 2023 to February 2025

Parties are encouraged to respond to all questions and are also requested to provide comprehensive answers, when required.

National Report format is available through the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS), which has been successfully implemented and used by CMS, AEWA, IOSEA and Sharks MOU in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC.

Through Resolution 12.5 (Rev. COP14) and Decisions 14.27, 14.25 National Reports and 14.2 Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat were tasked with developing a new format for National Reports that aligns with the SPMS. However, given that the indicators of the SPMS are not yet in place, and due to the time constraints caused by the exceptionally short intersessional period before COP15, there is insufficient time to substantially amend the National Report format to fully align it with the SPMS.

The Standing Committee therefore agreed to develop a new format for the reporting period after COP15, and to use the previous National Report format for the current reporting period, with only minor adjustments. These adjustments would include a limited number of additional questions on topics that COP14 specifically requested to be reported through National Reports.

Additionally, it was agreed not to attach the full list of species in Appendices I and II for verification by Parties, as this information was collected during previous reporting cycles but could not be fully assessed and reflected in the National Reports format due to a lack of resources. Instead, the Standing Committee agreed to collect information on Range States for species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19 during this reporting cycle, in accordance with Decision 14.234.

A proposal of the National Reports format was circulated by the Secretariat to the Standing Committee members on 13 December and it was agreed through communication procedure, in line with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure.

This online version of the format strictly follows the one adopted by Standing Committee through communication procedure. In addition, as was also the case for reporting prior to COP14, it incorporates pre-filled information, notably in Sections II and III, based on data available at the Secretariat from the previous reporting cycles.

Please note that guidance is available for a number of questions throughout the national report as both in-text guidance and as tool tips (displayed via the information 'i' icon).

For any question, please contact Mr. Aydin Bahramlouian, Public Information Officer, aydin.bahramlouian@un.org

NOTICE: Before clicking on the hyperlinks in this questionnaire, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

RESOURCES FOR THE CMS NATIONAL REPORT FROM OTHER RELEVANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Convention/Agreement/Process

Information source

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

National Reports

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Annual trade reports, Annual illegal trade reports, Implementation reports

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

National Reports, Ramsar Information Sheets

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Country reports

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

National Reports

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

National Reports

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

National Communications, Biennial Reports, Update Reports

Various CMS Family Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

National Reports

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

National Reports

Note: These reporting processes of other relevant intergovernmental frameworks are examples of information resources to be used when filling out this national report, which may assist in identification and strengthening of synergies among these processes. This list is **not** exhaustive. There are many other sources of information that may also be of relevance for migratory species, their habitats and migrations systems.

High-level summary of key messages

In your country, during the reporting period, what does this report reveal about:

Guidance:

This section invites you to summarise the most important positive aspects of CMS implementation in your country and the areas of greatest concern. Please limit this specifically to the current reporting period only.

Your answers should be based on the information contained in the body of the report: the intention is for this section to distil the technical information in the report into “high level” messages for decision-makers and wider audiences.

Please try also to be specific or provide specific examples where you can, e.g. “New wildlife legislation enacted in 2024 doubled penalties for poisoning wild birds” rather than “stronger laws”; “50% shortfall in match-funding for GEF project on gazelles” rather than just “lack of funding”.

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> By 2025, the system of protected areas of Georgia expanded and comprises 100 protected areas under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 6 categories, namely: 14 State Reserves, 15 National Parks, 25 Managed Reserves, 40 Natural Monuments, 5 Protected Landscapes and 1 Multi-Purpose Use Area.

The national categories of protected areas cover a total of over 929,996 hectares, which is over 13.3 % of the country’s overall territory. In order to advance representativeness of species and habitats, and improve efficient management and governance of the network of protected areas, the Ministry carries out Protected area Policy reform, therefore it develops the new policy document – Concept of the Protected Areas of Georgia;

71.6% of the area of SPAs has protection mechanisms in place (Protected Areas, Emerald Network).

53.6% of the area of IBAs has protection mechanisms in place (Protected Areas, Emerald Network).

Georgia has developed a National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries, which provides a framework for sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of migratory species. The concept document is finalized and currently awaiting signature and formal approval by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

Georgia has approved a National Species Restoration Plan to restore populations of extinct or threatened species and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The plan sets criteria for target species, assesses habitats, and defines legal and management requirements for conservation translocations. Measures include ex situ breeding, adaptation enclosures, release protocols, and post-release monitoring.

The plan was approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture No. 2-804 of October 21, 2024.

The greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> Absence of a National Biodiversity Monitoring System with all existing raw data and

Lack of human resources to provide analysis of trends.

Lack of sustainable funding for periodic monitoring.

The main priorities for future implementation of the Convention? (List up to five items):

>>> Continue coordination between the various international conventions and initiatives in the field of nature conservation, so that synergies are enhanced.

Establishment of the unified biodiversity monitoring system with the responsible agencies and developed data flow

Update of the national legislation through consultations with stakeholders

Implement priorities of the Convention through the new NBSAP

I. Administrative Information

Name of the Party

>>> Georgia

Date of entry into force of the Convention in your country (DDMMYY)

>>> 01.06.2000

Any territories which are excluded from the application of the Convention

>>> None

Report compiler

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II. Accession/Ratification of CMS Agreements/MOUs

Please confirm the status of your country's participation in the following Agreements/MOUs, and indicate any updates or corrections required:

No, updates or corrections are required, as follows:

Updates or corrections:

>>> The discussion on Georgia's possible signing of the Raptors MOU remains an ongoing process. Due to recent changes within the Ministry and its structural units, additional time is required to clarify the institutional arrangements and move the process forward. It should also be noted that Georgia has already changed its status from Range State to Signatory under the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew

Country participation in Agreements/MOUs:

Please select only one per line

	Range State, but not a Party/Signatory	Not applicable (= not a Range State)	Party/Signatory
Aquatic Warbler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCOBAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AEWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ASCOBANS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Atlantic Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birds of Prey (Raptors)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bukhara Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dugong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EUROBATS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gorilla Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Andean Flamingos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IOSEA Marine Turtles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Middle-European Great Bustard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monk Seal in the Atlantic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands Cetaceans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruddy-headed Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiga Antelope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siberian Crane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slender-billed Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Andean Huemul	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern South American Grassland Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wadden Sea Seals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West African Elephants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western African Aquatic Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. Species on the Convention Appendices

III.1 Please confirm that the Excel file “Res. 14.19 species per Party” linked below correctly identifies the **Appendix II** species listed in Resolution 14.19 Guidance on the treatment of species included within aggregated families listed under Appendix II for which your country is a Range State.

The list of Resolution 14.19 species per Parties is available **here**.

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

GUIDANCE TIP:

During the last two reporting cycles, information has been collected on Appendix I and Appendix II species, and the information received still needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this reporting cycle only focuses on bird species identified under Resolution 14.19. This Resolution invites Parties to consider the list of Species in its Annex when preparing National Reports. This question aims at collecting information on Range States of species listed in the Annex to Resolution 14.19. Parties are therefore invited to review the Range State data which are available in the excel spreadsheet “Res. 14.19 species per Party”. Please confirm that the list is correct, or if amendments are needed, create a line for each species for which you wish to indicate different information from that shown in the Excel spreadsheet. Where possible, please also provide supporting evidence, such as a reference to a scientific paper. A more detailed spreadsheet with Data per countries and territories is available here as background information. The data used for these spreadsheets are based on the CMS standard references for non-passerine and passerine species, as determined by Resolution 12.27(Rev.COP14) Taxonomy and Nomenclature, using its online version HBW-BirdLife Version 9.0 (October 2024)..

Yes, the list is correct

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Section III Appendix II Georgia.xlsx](#)

IV. Legal Prohibition of the Taking of Appendix I Species

IV.1. Is the taking of Appendix I species prohibited by national or territorial legislation in accordance with CMS Article III(5)?

Yes for all Appendix I species

Please identify any change in the legal statute(s) concerned that has been introduced since the last reporting:

Please provide links and clearly identify the relevant statute(s) by providing the title, date, etc.

>>> According to the Georgian legislation, taking from the wild of all species of wild animals is prohibited, except those listed in a specially developed Hunting List, which are allowed for hunting. No Appendix I species are listed in the Hunting List.

IV.2 **Exceptions:** Where the taking of Appendix I species **is** prohibited by national legislation, have any exceptions been granted to the prohibition during the reporting period?

No

IV.4. Are any vessels flagged to your country engaged in the intentional taking of Appendix I species outside of your country's national jurisdictional limits (consistent with the definition of "Range State" in Article I of the Convention)?

Unknown

V. Awareness

V.1. Please indicate the actions that have been taken by your country during the reporting period to increase people's awareness of the values of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems (note that answers given in section XVIII may also be relevant).
(select all that apply)

GUIDANCE TIP:

Awareness raising may include actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in various CMS documents, such as Resolution, Res. **11.9 (Rev.COP13)** (World Migratory Bird Day), as well as a number of other resolutions and decisions which include specific provisions about awareness raising, including Resolutions Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), Res. **14.18** (Avian Influenza), Res. **14.17** (Communities and livelihoods), Res. **14.16** (Ecological Connectivity), Res. **14.15** (Action Plan to address aquatic Wild Meat Harvests), Res. **14.14** (CMS Jaguar Initiative), Res. **14.13** (Initiative for Central Asian Flyway), Res. **14.12** (Single Species Action Plan for the Angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) in the Mediterranean Sea), Res. **14.10** (Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)), Res. **14.8** (Conservation and sustainable management of seagrass ecosystems), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.1** (Samarkand Strategic Plan for migratory species 2024 - 2032), Res. **12.6 (Rev.COP14)** (Wildlife health and migratory species), Res. **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways), Res. **12.17** (Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region), Res. **12.19 (Rev.COP14)** (Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **12.25** (Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Res. **11.16 (Rev.COP14)** (The Prevention of Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds), Res. **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African-Eurasian Region), Res. **11.24 (Rev.COP13)** (Central Asian Mammal Initiative), Res. **11.31 (Rev.COP14)** (Illegal and unsustainable taking of wildlife), Res. **8.12 (Rev.COP12)** (Improving the Conservation Status of Raptors and Owls in the African-Eurasian Region), and Decision 14.194 (Ecological Connectivity), Decision 14.54 (Marine Wildlife Watching) and Decision 14.223 (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

- Campaigns on specific topics
- Teaching programmes in schools or colleges
- Press and media coverage
- Community-based celebrations, exhibitions and other events
- Engagement of specific stakeholder groups
- Special publications
- Interpretation at nature reserves and other sites

Impact of actions

V.2. Please provide details for the actions selected in the previous question and indicate any specific elements of CMS COP Resolutions which have been particularly taken forward by these actions.

>>> Wide range of awareness-raising activities are implemented annually.

In addition to the publications on the official page of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Agency of Protected Areas as well frequently posts information regarding bird and other migratory species, World Migratory Bird Day, Earth Day, etc. Non-Governmental and scientific organizations are actively involved in awareness raising campaigns, trainings and lectures for school students, regional eco-clubs. Kolkheti, Kobuleti and Mtirala protected area administrations are the closest to the Black Sea beach when migration occurs, these administrations are overly active for their educational activities with youth. For example, Number of participants in eco-educational events, in Kobuleti Protected Area in the last three years was 3370 persons, 5957 in Kolkheti Protected Areas, 2318 in Mtirala Protected Area. Another important migratory corridor lays through the Javakheti plateau where Javakheti protected area is situated, during the last three years the administration reached 3743 persons directly through the eco-educational activities; school teachers, school students, local community representatives are the target groups for thelectures/seminars, fieldwork/ tour into the protected area, cleanup events, eco-camps organized by the administrations of Protected Areas.

The Universities have developed ecology module for bachelor's and master's degrees, which include frequent field trips and species monitoring (including migratory birds and sturgeon species).

Batumi Raptor Count is an organization and at the same time a famous annual practice, which gathers dozens of birdwatchers and volunteers at the Black Sea, which during at least 2 months of autumn migration gathers data on different bird species of Batumi bottleneck and maintain website. Data from annual migration is accessible on the web site: <https://www.batimiraptorcount.org/data>

The non-governmental organization Society for Nature Conservation - SABUKO plays an active role in the conservation of birds, including migratory species, as well as in habitat restoration and environmental awareness-raising. One of its flagship initiatives, the "Spring Alive" project, focuses on the theme of bird migration and promotes public engagement through school visits, nature walks, literature translation, awareness campaigns, and competitions.

Each year, the campaign adopts a specific theme such as how to be a good birdwatcher, bird nests, glass collision prevention, or citizen science. Within the framework of these annual campaigns, SABUKO organizes a

series of school challenges across different regions of Georgia. These challenges are designed to actively involve teachers and students in environmental education.

Participating teachers register their schools and receive a set of interactive tasks and activities developed by SABUKO, aimed at enhancing students' understanding of biodiversity, its protection, and its importance for ecosystems and human well-being. Through this initiative, SABUKO has engaged dozens of schools and hundreds of students nationwide, fostering environmental awareness, responsibility, and curiosity about nature.

National Geographic Georgia in consultation with various stakeholders, has developed the species distribution map for citizen communication (<https://map.nationalgeographic.ge/en/>)

V.3. Overall, how successful have these awareness actions been in achieving their objectives?

Tick one box

GUIDANCE TIP:

If the impact of awareness actions has been assessed by (for example) project evaluation studies or follow-up audience attitude surveys during the reporting period, those provide a basis for answering this question. If the assessment has involved any type of quantitative measure of the impact, please specify. It is recognized that such assessment studies may not always be available, in which case it is acceptable to base your answer on an informed subjective judgement. Alternatively, if there is genuinely no basis for forming such a judgement, please select "Unknown".

Question V.4 gives you the opportunity to explain the basis on which you have answered question V.3.

4. Large positive impact

V.4. Please identify the main form(s) of evidence that has/have been used to make this assessment.

>>> Decline of gun shots - illegal killing of raptors in one of the most difficult villages - Sakhalvasho and Shuamta, Ajara region is clear evidence of impact of intensive education and policy work.

Annually there are more volunteers interested in nature conservation, bird identification. The exact numbers are not on the table, however, comparing the awareness and amount of activities especially for young people, is absolutely progressive.

VI. Mainstreaming Migratory Species in Other Sectors and Processes

VI.1. Does the conservation of migratory species currently feature in any national or local strategies and/or planning processes in your country relating to development, poverty reduction and/or livelihoods?

Yes

Please provide details:

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe how CMS objectives are incorporated in other sectoral strategies such as transport, construction, agriculture, tourism, education, spatial planning, Sustainable Development Goals and other strategies.

>>> The documents which inquire conservation of migratory species are usually National level documents or municipality-level documents where migratory species conservation is one of the objectives. Species of CMS Appendices are considered accordingly in frames of the following mechanisms: 1. The Law of Georgia on the Red List and Red Book of Georgia Emerald Network sites; Management plans of Protected Areas 2. EIAs for construction and other development activities, etc. The state migratory species are regularly mentioned in the State of Environment Reports.

Vision 2030 - is a multi-sectoral Development Strategy document that was adopted in 2022. The document comprises multispectral priority fields for development including the conservation of sturgeons and their habitats as well as the development of a monitoring program, control of nitrates in agricultural activities and protection of freshwater habitats, development of river basin management plans, etc.

Since 2024, Georgia has launched the update of its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) within the framework of the UNEP/GEF project "Early Action Support – Biodiversity Global Framework", coordinated by the Environmental Information and Education Centre under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. The updated NBSAP aims to align national biodiversity objectives with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), ensuring that the conservation of migratory species and their habitats is mainstreamed across key sectors, including energy, transport, agriculture, tourism, and spatial planning.

Moreover, the ongoing development of a national biodiversity monitoring platform supports data collection and coordination between sectors, including monitoring of migratory birds. Field research and monitoring results from 2024–2025 (for example, under UNDP/GEF and Biodiversity and Forestry Department program budget programmes) are contributing to cross-sectoral integration of migratory-species conservation priorities.

In addition, Georgia has approved a National Species Restoration Plan to restore populations of extinct or threatened species and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The plan sets criteria for selecting target species, assesses habitat suitability, and defines legal and management requirements for conservation translocations. Measures include ex situ breeding, adaptation enclosures, release protocols, and post-release monitoring. Priority species include plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The Plan was approved by the Order of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture No. 2-804 of 21 October 2024

Furthermore, Georgia has developed a National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries, which provides a framework for sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of migratory species. The concept document is finalized and currently awaiting signature and formal approval by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

VI.2. Does your country integrate the 'values of migratory species and their habitats' in any other national reporting processes?

E.g. Agenda 2030, reporting for International Whaling Commission, CBD, EU Nature Directives, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Responses to this question should be focused on the reporting processes of the country rather than on plans and regulations within the country. This question intends to understand if the values of migratory species and habitats are featured in other national reporting that your country participates in, such as reporting to other biodiversity MEAs, the International Whaling Commission, European Commission etc.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> The migratory species are regularly taken into consideration in the State of Environment Reports, National Environment Action Program, NBSAPs.

On an international level, the state of migratory species is reported to several Conventions, such as Bern Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, CMS Convention including AEWA and ACCOBAMS agreements, Ramsar Convention.

VI.3. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of non-governmental organizations and/or civil society in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> NGO SABUKO – Society for Nature Conservation, Birdlife member. Its main activities are:

Species conservation programs: Caucasian Grouse and other Galliformes, Black and Griffon Vultures, Lammergeyer, Imperial Eagle and other raptors, Caucasian salamander and other amphibians;
National IBA program development;
NGO NACRES - Species Conservation Center, works mostly on large mammals;
Fauna and Flora International which has been and continues its work for the conservation of sturgeon species;
WWF Caucasus - one of the main stakeholders in terms of sturgeon conservation. WWF has continuous work with national and international experts, it coordinates the Stakeholder platform of the Sturgeons.
Monitoring programs: migratory raptors, wintering water birds, and wildlife monitoring of large development projects.
Caucasus Nature Fund -
Assistance to the protected areas in bird monitoring capacity building;
Conservation and sustainable management planning for wetlands and mountain ecosystems;
Birdwatching promotion;
Schools for Nature program: needs assessments, small grants for schools, provision of materials, the establishment of wildlife clubs;
Capacity building of community-based organizations: training, small grants, institutional capacity building;
Publishing: books, brochures, posters, and other printing materials on birds, nature, and conservation;
Promotion of transboundary cooperation in the Caucasus for biodiversity conservation;
Policy and advocacy: participation in the national biodiversity strategy and policy developments, biodiversity assessments.

VI.4. Provide some examples of significant involvements (if any) of the private sector in the conservation of migratory species in your country.

>>> No involvement of private sector

VI.5. Are legislation and regulations in your country concerning Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) considering the possible impediments to migration, transboundary effects on migratory species, and of impacts on migratory patterns and migratory ranges?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please refer to Resolution **7.2 (Rev.COP14)** (Impact Assessment and Migratory Species).

Yes

Please describe any hindrances and challenges to the application of EIA and SEAs with respect to migratory species, lessons learned, and needs for further capacity development.

>>> The main regulations are:

-Law of Georgia "Environmental Assessment Code" (Article 10), Strategic Environmental Assessment - Chapter III

-Law of Georgia on Environmental Liability

VI.6. To what extent have biodiversity and migratory species considerations been specifically integrated into national energy and climate policy and legislation?

GUIDANCE TIP

Please refer to Resolutions **12.21 (Rev.COP14)** (Climate Change and Migratory Species), Res. **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), Res. **10.11 (Rev.COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), and Decision **14.207** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species) for more information.

>>> The migratory species and their habitat conservation is not considered in the climate change strategy 2030 of Georgia and the Energy Strategy is under development. Comments to be considered are provided to the relevant institution.

VII. Governance, Policy and Legislative Coherence

(SPMS Target 3: National, regional and international governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems have improved significantly, making relevant policy, legislative and implementation processes more coherent, accountable, transparent, participatory, equitable and inclusive.)

VII.1. Have any governance arrangements and agreements affecting migratory species and their migration systems in your country, or in which your country participates, resulted in improvements during the reporting period?

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to understand improvements in governance arrangements in your country, which may potentially include improvements in policy, legislation, governance processes, plans etc. Please also consider the guidance below in VII.2.

No, because existing arrangements are considered to be sufficient

VII.2. Has any committee or other arrangement for liaison between different government agencies/ministries, sectors or groups been established at a national and/or subnational level in your country that addresses CMS implementation issues?

GUIDANCE TIP:

There is no fixed model for what these arrangements may involve, and it is for each Contracting Party to decide what best suits its own circumstances. Examples could include a steering group that includes representatives of territorial administration authorities, a coordination committee that involves the lead government department (e.g. environment) working with other departments (e.g. agriculture, industry); a forum that brings together government and NGOs; a liaison group that links with business and private sector interests; a stakeholder forum involving representatives of indigenous and local communities; a coordination team that brings together the National Focal Points for each of the biodiversity-related MEAs to which the country is a Party (see also question VII.3); or any other appropriate mechanism.

These mechanisms may be specifically focused on migratory species issues, or they may address CMS implementation in conjunction with related processes such as NBSAP coordination, a National Ramsar Committee, etc.

The Manual for National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments may be helpful in giving further context.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Coordination on CMS implementation in Georgia is supported through multiple mechanisms. The update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Species Restoration Plan (Order No. 2-804, 21 October 2024) provide a cross-sectoral framework for planning and implementing actions for migratory and threatened species. The National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries, finalized and awaiting ministerial approval, integrates migratory fish conservation into national planning, involving relevant ministries, research institutions, and NGOs.

At the international level, Georgia maintains active participation in CMS-related instruments, including AEWA, EUROBATS and ACCOBAMS, and continues collaboration with the Bern Convention, contributing to harmonized reporting, policy coordination, and stakeholder engagement on migratory species. Regular meetings of the stakeholder platform (established in 2022 and coordinated by WWF Caucasus) bring together government, scientific, and NGO representatives to discuss conservation priorities, monitoring results, and implementation progress.

VII.3. Does collaboration between the focal points of CMS and other relevant global or regional Conventions take place in your country to develop the coordinated and synergistic approaches described in paragraphs 29, 30 and 32 of **Res. 11.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Synergies and partnerships) and in paragraph 7 of **Res. 14.3** (Engagement in CBD processes including the Global Biodiversity Framework) ?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Relevant Conventions may include other global agreements such as biodiversity-related Conventions and Agreements, UNFCCC, UNCCD, as well as regional agreements, including CMS Agreements. Such collaboration may also be relevant to aligning efforts related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, and NBSAPs as described in **Dec. 14.6** (CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework) and **Res.8.18 (Rev.COP12)** (Integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs and into On-going and Future Programmes of Work under CBD). Guidance documents for integrating considerations relevant to Migratory Species in NBSAPs are available at CMS website.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> The Focal Points of the Bern Convention, the Bonn Convention (including AEWA, EUROBATS, and

ACCOBAMS Agreements), the CBD, CITES, and the Ramsar Convention all previously worked within the same department before the internal reorganisation. Following the reorganisation, they are now based in different institutions — some within the Ministry and others within various agencies — but they continue to maintain a very close working relationship and communicate on a daily basis. Additionally, Georgia is represented in the group of Experts of the Strategic Plan 2030 of the Bern Convention and in the WG of the CMS Intersessional Working Group - Strategic Plan for Migratory Species.

VII.4. Has your country or any jurisdictional subdivision within your country adopted legislation, policies, initiatives or action plans during the reporting period that promote community involvement in conservation of CMS-listed species?

No

VIII. Incentives

VIII.1. Has there been any elimination, phasing out or reforming of harmful incentives in your country during the reporting period resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Partly / in some areas

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>>> 1. National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries (2024–2025, finalized and awaiting ministerial approval):

Establishes mechanisms to phase out unsustainable practices that threaten migratory fish populations, including unregulated harvesting and inappropriate stocking practices.

2. Draft of Hunting Law (2023–present, under consultation): Introduces stricter licensing and quota systems linked to scientific monitoring, broader prohibitions on harmful hunting methods, creation of no-hunting “quiet zones,” and mandatory hunter certification with testing. Once adopted, these measures will strengthen control over intentional taking and improve wildlife conservation.

3. Annual Hunting season updates : Revised quotas, seasonal restrictions, and spatial regulations for migratory birds and game species have been implemented to reduce pressures on vulnerable populations.

VIII.2. Has there been development and/or application of positive incentives in your country during the reporting period, resulting in benefits for migratory species?

Partly / in some areas

Please indicate what measures were implemented and the time-periods concerned.

>>> - Eco-Corridors Programme in the Southern Caucasus” (ECF) is implemented in South Georgia by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Caucasus Programme with further objectives:

1. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity outside Protected Areas;

2. Securing at least equal income to the local rural population;

3. Supporting beneficiaries to manage the land in ecologically sound way and

4. Setting up a funding facility (Eco-Regional Fund) as an instrument to promote sustainable land use practices and to fund the conservation agreements beyond the programme duration

The project area is the ecological corridor situated in the Western Lesser Caucasus Landscape, Southwest of Georgia, and includes the Colchic rainforests and wetlands UNESCO world heritage sites on the Black Sea coast (including Kintrishi and Mtirala Protected Areas), the Machakhela National Park, the entire Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Samtskhe Javakheti region with the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park and the Ktsia-Tabatskuri Managed Reserve. On the Turkish border, the landscape connects to the Camili Biosphere Reserve and the Posof Wildlife Reserve. The ecological corridor connecting the network for protected areas mainly follows the Meskheti mountain range but also provides a link with the Arsian Range over the Goderdzi pass and the lower gorge of Adjaristskali river.

In order to involve the local communities in the implementation of conservation measures, the project started 10-year community conservation Agreements. Beneficiaries became accountable for the sustainable use of natural resources during this agreed period. In exchange for carrying out conservation measures or for refraining from activities with adverse effects on the environment, the ECF provides long-term funding to the beneficiaries as per Habitat Management Plans and Conservation Agreements. These activities overall have a positive influence on the conservation of migratory bird species as well, because the region is situated near the Batumi bottleneck and the Black Sea coast which hosts millions of migratory birds annually.

- The National Bank of Georgia has adopted The Sustainable Finance (SF) Taxonomy which identifies activities that deliver on key climate, green, social, or sustainability objectives. Green taxonomy provides a list of activities that aim to achieve environmental objectives and contribute to the development of a green economy. Social taxonomy, on the other hand, proposes a list of categories focused on achieving social objectives primarily but not exclusively for target population. Apart from that, green/social activities that have social/green co-benefits are considered as sustainable activities.

National Species Restoration Plan and Sustainable Fisheries Concept (2024–2025):

The National Species Restoration Plan (Order No. 2-804, 21 October 2024) incentivizes conservation actions for threatened and migratory species, including ex situ breeding, habitat restoration, and post-release monitoring.

The National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries, finalized post-2024 and awaiting ministerial approval, provides incentives for sustainable fishing practices that benefit migratory fish species, including sturgeons and salmonids.

IX. Sustainable Production and Consumption

IX.1. During the reporting period, has your country implemented plans or taken other steps concerning sustainable production and consumption which are relevant for conservation of migratory species?

In development / planned

Please describe the measures that have been planned, developed or implemented

>>> Georgia has developed a National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries, which provides a framework for sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of migratory species. The concept document is finalized and currently awaiting signature and formal approval by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

In addition, Georgia has approved a National Species Restoration Plan to restore populations of extinct or threatened species and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The plan sets criteria for target species, assesses habitats, and defines legal and management requirements for conservation translocations. Measures include ex situ breeding, adaptation enclosures, release protocols, and post-release monitoring. Priority species include plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals such as European bison, red deer, sturgeon. The plan was approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture No. 2-804 of October 21, 2024.

Please describe what evidence exists to show that the intended results of these measures are being achieved.

>>> The National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries is finalized and awaiting ministerial approval, with preparatory steps (stock identification, monitoring protocols, seasonal closure planning) showing progress toward sustainable fisheries and migratory species conservation.

Evidence of the plan's effectiveness includes ongoing monitoring of released individuals using tracking equipment, assessments of survival and adaptation in recipient habitats, and regular population surveys. Early results indicate that translocated species are surviving and, in some cases, reproducing in the wild. Data from adaptation enclosures and ex situ breeding programs confirm the health and readiness of individuals prior to release. Local community engagement and reporting also provide qualitative evidence of successful integration and support for conservation measures.

X. Threats and Pressures Affecting Migratory Species; Including Obstacles to Migration

Which of the following pressures on migratory species or their habitats are having an adverse impact in your country on migratory species included in the CMS Appendices?

Guidance: This question asks you to identify the important pressures that are reliably known to be having an actual adverse impact on CMS-listed migratory species at present. Please avoid including speculative information about pressures that may be of some potential concern but whose impacts have not yet been demonstrated.

Please note that, consistent with the terms of the Convention, “in your country” may in certain circumstances include areas outside national jurisdictional limits where the activities of any vessels flagged to your country are involved.

Intentional Taking

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please note that as per Article 1(i) of the Convention, “Taking” means taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing, deliberate killing, or attempting to engage in such conduct.

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Legal hunting	No cases registered	3
Illegal hunting	Aquila nipalensis (3) case; Anas platyrhynchos (4) case; Coturnix coturnix (57) case;	3
Other harvesting and take	No cases registered	3
Illegal trade	Cygnus cygnus (1)	3
Deliberate poisoning	No cases registered	3

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing intentional taking?

>>> Georgia has developed a new draft Hunting Law that is currently undergoing consultations. This draft introduces key advances such as a stricter licensing and quota system linked to scientific monitoring, broader prohibitions on harmful hunting methods, the creation of no-hunting “quiet zones,” and mandatory hunter certification with testing. Once adopted, these measures are expected to significantly strengthen control over intentional taking and improve wildlife conservation

Georgia has approved a National Species Restoration Plan to restore populations of extinct or threatened species and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The plan sets criteria for target species, assesses habitats, and defines legal and management requirements for conservation translocations. Measures include ex situ breeding, adaptation enclosures, release protocols, and post-release monitoring. Priority species include plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The plan was approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture No. 2-804 of October 21, 2024.

The capacities of the Environmental Supervision Department are being strengthened;

Unintentional Taking

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Bycatch		
Catch in Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)		
Other forms of unintentional taking		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing bycatch or catch in ALDFG?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **12.22**(Bycatch), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **11.21** (Single Species Action Plan for the Loggerhead Turtle in the South Pacific Ocean), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), and Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan species) and Dec. 14.31 b) and c). Parties are encouraged to report on the implementation of the recommendation included in Drynan and Baker 2023 “Technical mitigation techniques to reduce bycatch of sharks” provided in Annex 1 to UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.1/Rev.1.

>>> By-catch is not allowed according to national legislation. Therefore by-catch facts are not reported by fishermen. If it is the case, such facts are reported by the Environmental Supervision Department.

For example, in case of Sturgeons,

Since the sturgeons are by-caught mostly in bottom trawls, there are relevant restrictions in place: bottom trawling is allowed only in a few areas, where the impact on the sea bottom is minimal. Besides that, fishing on sturgeons is prohibited in areas close to the river estuaries in 300 m radius.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning bycatch?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please provide information on any significant trend in bycatch of CMS-listed species, notably those listed on App. I. Related to the guidance given on the overarching part of Question X.1, this is a key example where you are encouraged to think about activities outside national jurisdictional limits of any vessels flagged to your country (in addition to any other circumstances in which bycatch is a noteworthy pressure on relevant species).

>>> Not assessed

Collisions and electrocution

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Wind turbines	no data	no data
Other collisions	no data	no data
Electrocution	No data	No data
Vessel strikes		

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing collisions and electrocution?

>>> During the power line project planning process, several seasonal field research is conducted by construction companies, and the results are reflected in the EIA reports.

According to the results obtained during the research, measures to avoid impact and mitigate measures the above are determined. The mitigation measures and general standards are in accordance with international guidelines. For infrastructure projects, it is mandatory to implement various mitigation measures, such as arranging line marking devices, taking into account the minimum distance between power lines, etc.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning collisions and electrocution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **7.4** (Electrocution of Migratory Birds), **7.5 (Rev.COP12)**(Wind Turbines and Migratory Species, **10.11 (Rev. COP13)** (Power Lines and Migratory Birds), **11.17 (Rev.COP14)** (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds in the African Eurasian Region), **11.27 (Rev.COP13)** (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), **12.10 (Rev.COP14)** (Conservation of African Eurasian Vultures), Res. **14.5** (Reducing the risk of vessel strikes for marine megafauna), Res. **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans) and Decision 14.48.

>>> Not assessed

Other mortality

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Disease, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)	-	-
Unexplained stranding events	-	-
Accidental/indirect poisoning	-	-
Disease	-	-

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in countering other mortality?

>>> Not assessed

Alien and/or invasive species

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Alien and/or invasive species	No reliable data	No reliable data

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing alien and/or invasive species?

>>> impact of the invasive alien species on the ecosystems and biodiversity of Georgia has not been completely explored. Information on invasive species is still scarce and it is not possible to take appropriate action to appearance, spread and controlling invasive species.

The list of the most aggressive 50 plant species was developed, however, it is not reflected in the legislation. Since the previous report, Georgia has developed a National Concept for the Management of Alien Invasive Species, initiated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) support. The Concept analyses the current situation and outlines measures for prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control of invasive species. It has been finalized and submitted for ministerial approval, marking the first strategic framework to address invasive species in the country.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning alien and/or invasive species?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **11.28** (Future CMS Activities related to Invasive Alien Species).

>>> Not assessed

Disturbance and disruption

	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low
Disturbance	No reliable data	No reliable data

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning disturbance and disruption?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **12.16** (Rev.COP14) (Recreational

In-Water Interaction with Aquatic Mammals), Res. **11.29 (Rev.COP12)** (Sustainable Boat-based Wildlife Watching), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative) and measures to mitigate threats to Important Shark and Ray Ares under Decision **14.61**.

>>> Not assessed

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing pollution?

>>> Not assessed

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning pollution?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **12.14** (Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory species), Res. **12.17** (Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of south Atlantic Whales), Res. **12.20** (Management of Marine Debris), Res. **7.3 (Rev.COP12)** (Oil Pollution and Migratory species), and Decision **14.223** (Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Aquatic, Terrestrial and Avian Species).

>>> Not assessed

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in addressing habitat destruction/degradation?

>>> In 2024, the Guria National Park was established in the Guria region with the aim of conserving the area’s unique forest landscapes and biodiversity, preserving ecosystems, and preventing further human-induced degradation. The park covers a total area of 15,310 hectares across the Chokhatauri and Ozurgeti municipalities, of which approximately 92% (14,141 ha) is forest, while the remaining area mainly consists of alpine meadows.

The establishment of the national park represents a significant step forward in addressing habitat destruction and degradation. It contributes to the protection and restoration of valuable forest ecosystems, promotes sustainable land use, and supports local communities by fostering tourism development and generating additional economic opportunities.

Additionally monitoring program for the sturgeon conservation was developed with involvement of stakeholders, with support of WWF Caucasus.

Climate change

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Climate change	No data	No data

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report concerning climate change?

>>> Georgia has made notable progress in strengthening its national climate policy framework and fulfilling its international obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The country has submitted five National Communication to the UNFCCC, with the latest delivered in 2025. These reports provide detailed information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, vulnerability assessments, climate change impacts on various sectors, and actions related to mitigation, adaptation, education, and research. Georgia has also submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) - the latest in 2021 - which set clear national targets for reducing GHG emissions and enhancing resilience. Although the third NDC (NDC 3.0) has not yet been officially submitted, it is already prepared and it is reflecting Georgia’s commitment to increase its climate ambition and align national priorities with the goals of the Paris Agreement. In addition, Georgia submitted its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) in 2024, which marked an important step toward a more transparent and standardized system of reporting progress in implementing climate commitments, including updates on GHG inventories and adaptation actions. The country also finalized its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) in 2021, outlining a strategic vision for transitioning toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by mid-century. Furthermore, Georgia has initiated the development of its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to systematically identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs, reduce vulnerability, and integrate adaptation into national and sectoral planning processes. Overall, these developments demonstrate Georgia’s growing institutional capacity, policy coherence, and technical expertise in addressing climate change, moving steadily toward a sustainable and resilient future.

What are the most significant negative trends since the previous report concerning climate change?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Significant advances may include efforts, actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Decision **14.211** (Climate change and Migratory Species).

>>> Not assessed

Levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc.

	Overall relative severity of impact 1 = severe 2 = moderate 3 = low	Species/species groups affected (please provide names and indicate whether Appendix I and/or Appendix II); and any other details
Inadequate transboundary management	3	
Inadequate legislation	2	-
Lack of knowledge	3	
Inadequate enforcement of legislation	-	

What are the most significant advances that have been made since the previous report in levels of knowledge, awareness, legislation, management etc?

>>> 66 Emerald Network sites were adopted in December 2022 by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention. Management plans of all Emerald sites are either developed or under development.

The system of Protected Areas (all 6 protected area categories of IUCN) was expanded and by 2025 it covers 13.3 % of Georgia. All of the 100 protected areas have either a management plan adopted or are under development.

71.6 % of Special Protection Areas for Birds are within either the Protected Areas or Emerald Network

53.6 % of Important Bird Areas are within either the Protected Areas or Emerald Network

Law of Georgia on Environmental Liability Entered into force on 2 March 2021, the draft law was prepared in consultation with various stakeholders and experts.

The Law of Georgia "Environmental Assessment Code" entered into force on 01 January 2018

During the reporting period, has your country adopted new legislation or other domestic measures in response to CMS Article III(4) (b) specifically addressing obstacles to migration?

CMS Article III(4)(b) states 'Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor...to prevent, remove, compensate for or minimize, as appropriate, the adverse effects of activities or obstacles that seriously impede or prevent the migration of the species.'

GUIDANCE TIP:

This question is intended to specifically report on any new legislation or domestic measures **addressing obstacles to migration**. Relevant information would not include general conservation measures.

No

XI. Conservation Status of Migratory Species

XI.1. What (if any) major changes in the conservation status of migratory species included in the CMS Appendices (e.g. national Red List category changes) have been recorded in your country during the reporting period?

“Conservation status” of migratory species is defined in Article I(1)(b) of the Convention as “the sum of the influences acting on the migratory species that may affect its long-term distribution and abundance”; and four conditions for conservation status to be taken as “favourable” are set out in Article I(1)(c).

If more rows are required, please upload an Excel file detailing a longer list of species.

GUIDANCE TIP:

The emphasis of this question is on “major changes” during the reporting period. Information is expected to be provided here only where particularly notable shifts in status have occurred, such as those that might be represented by a re-categorisation of national Red List threat status for a given species (or subspecies, where relevant). Please record if any CMS listed species has become extinct or extirpated from your country - or reintroduced/re-established/established - during the reporting period (or before if not previously reported to CMS).

Please note also that you are only being asked about the situation in your country. Information about global trends, and global Red List reclassifications etc, will be communicated to the CMS via other channels outside the national reporting process.

Terrestrial mammals (not including bats)

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Aquatic mammals

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Bats

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Birds

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)

	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Reptiles

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Fish

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Insects

	Change in status (including time period concerned)	Comments	Source reference	Species/subspecies (indicate CMS Appendix where applicable)
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

XII. Cooperating to Conserve Migration Systems

XII.1 During the reporting period, has your country initiated or participated in the development of any proposals for new CMS Agreements, including Memoranda of Understanding, to address the needs of Appendix II species?

E.g. Developments following the advice in Resolutions **12.8** and **13.7**.

No

XII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken by your country to encourage non-Parties to join CMS and its related Agreements?

No

XII.3. During the reporting period, has your country participated in the implementation of Concerted Actions under CMS (as detailed in Resolution **12.28 (Rev.COP14)**) to address the needs of relevant migratory species?

Yes

Please describe the results of these actions achieved so far:

GUIDANCE TIP:

If any progress report on implementation of Concerted Actions has been submitted to the COP and/or the Scientific Council in the period under consideration, Parties can refer to that report rather than restating the same information in replying to this question (please indicate the document number)

>>> New protected area Guria National Park was established in the Guria region with the aim of conserving the area's unique forest landscapes and biodiversity, preserving ecosystems, and preventing further human-induced degradation. The park covers a total area of 15,310 hectares across the Chokhatauri and Ozurgeti municipalities, of which approximately 92% (14,141 ha) is forest, while the remaining area mainly consists of alpine meadows.

The establishment of the national park will promote tourism development, create additional economic opportunities for local communities, and contribute to the sustainable development of the Guria region

XII.4. Have any other steps been taken which have contributed to enhancing cooperation on the conservation of migratory species in ways that fully reflect a migration systems approach?

E.g. steps implementing Resolutions **12.11 (Rev.COP14)** (Flyways) and Res. **12.17** (South Atlantic Whales), and Decisions 14.130 (Action Plan for Migratory Landbirds), 14.137 (Flyways), and 14.207 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species).

No

XII.5. Has your country mobilized resources and/or taken steps to promote and address ecological connectivity and its functionality in relevant international processes?

E.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, etc.

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please describe initiatives aimed at implementing Decision 14.194.

Yes

Please provide details:

>>> Georgia constantly negotiates with various donors in order to fulfill the objectives of different strategic documents. There are ongoing processes covering ecological corridors, development of an interconnected network of protected areas, critical analysis, and spatial planning, supported either by donors or national budget.

Georgia has the first Biodiversity Finance plan, pilot activities from the plan were implemented in practice (Ecotourism assessment in Forested area, agriculture subsidies, etc.). New National Biodiversity and Action Plan development encompasses elaboration of a new Biodiversity Finance Plan as well, where the topics on ecological connectivity play an important role.

The Biodiversity Finance plan is developed for three main reasons: Avoiding future costs, efficient use of existing resources, and generation of future resources from three main sources (national budget, private sector, and donor).

XIII. Area-Based Conservation Measures

XIII.1. Have critical habitats and sites for migratory species been identified (e.g. by an inventory) in your country?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The CMS does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a “critical” site or habitat for migratory species. It is left to report compilers to work with any interpretations which may be in existing use at national level, or to use informed expert judgement.

Helpful reflections on the issue can be found in the Resolution **Res. 14.16** (Ecological Connectivity) and in “**Strategic Review of Aspects of Ecological Networks relating to Migratory Species**” presented to COP11 and the “**Critical Site Network Tool**” developed under the auspices of AEWA and the Ramsar Convention. For sharks and rays please refer to <https://sharkrayareas.org>. For marine mammals, please refer to <https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/imma-eatlas/>.

Partially - to a small or moderate extent

What are the main gaps and priorities to address, if any, in order to achieve full identification of relevant critical habitats and sites?

>>> The association agreement between Georgia and the European Union, signed on 27 June 2014, includes obligations regarding the implementation of the following two EU directives relevant for the conservation of biological diversity:

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds.

According to the association agreement Georgia is obliged to establish a network of Emerald and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and to initiate priority management measures within four years after signing of the association agreement.

In this regard the following have been implemented:

Identified candidate Special Protected Areas for Birds (as future Emerald sites) - Completed

Performed baseline study for each individual candidate SPA (biodiversity-georgia.net/SPA) - Completed

Prepared of maps of each SPA (biodiversity-georgia.net/SPAmaps) - Completed

Developed a monitoring scheme of the SPAs - In progress

Produced SPA monitoring manual - in progress

Prepared database for monitoring data

Performed monitoring of 3 selected pilot SPAs - in progress

Updated checklist of Bird species of Georgia (biodiversity-georgia.net/aves) - Completed

Produced web page for the SPAs for birds - Completed

As of January 1, 2025, all 66 sites of the Emerald Network were approved by the Standing Committee in December, 2022. The total area of adopted Emerald sites covers 1,306,748 ha, which is 18.7% of the country's total area. It should be noted that the Emerald Network partially covers the protected areas of Georgia, which is about 42% of the Emerald Network.

Over 80 habitats have been identified in Georgia during the latest years, which were assessed during Biogeographical Seminars of the (Bern) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats. There is a need of a national-level inventory of the habitats by EUNIS classification. There is a very limited resource in order to implement the habitat inventory, therefore at this stage, information is available only for patched areas.

By 2025, the system of protected areas of Georgia expanded and comprises 100 protected areas under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 6 categories, namely: 14 State Reserves, 15 National Parks, 25 Managed Reserves, 40 Natural Monuments, 5 Protected Landscapes and 1 Multi-Purpose Use Area. The national categories of protected areas cover a total of over 929,996 hectares, which is over 13.3 % of the country's overall territory. In order advance representativeness of species and habitats, and improve efficient management and governance of the network of protected areas, the Ministry carries out Protected area Policy reform, therefore it develops the new policy document – Concept of the Protected Areas of Georgia;

XIII.2. Has any assessment been made of the contribution made by the country's protected areas network specifically to migratory species conservation?

In development

XIII.3. Has your country adopted any new legislation or other domestic measures in the reporting period in response to CMS Article III(4) (a) (“Parties that are Range States of a migratory species listed in Appendix I shall endeavor ... to conserve and, where feasible and appropriate, restore those habitats of the species which are of importance in removing the species from danger of extinction”)?

No

XIII.4. In respect of protected areas in your country that are important for migratory species, have any assessments of management effectiveness been undertaken in the reporting period?

In development

XIII.5. Beyond Protected Areas, are other effective area-based conservation measures implemented in your country in ways which benefit migratory species?

No

XIV. Ecosystem Services

XIV.1. Has any assessment of ecosystem services associated with migratory species been undertaken in your country since the last reporting?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The phrase “associated with” migratory species allows you to report on any assessments that cover ecosystem services of systems, habitats or species assemblages that include migratory species. The question is therefore not expecting you to limit this to assessments focused solely on one or more migratory species.

For a broader biodiversity assessment to be relevant here, the migratory species involved must be making some identifiable contribution to the ecosystem services concerned.

Partly / in progress

Please provide details (including source references where applicable):

>>> Since the last reporting, no assessment has been carried out exclusively for migratory species; however, broader ecosystem service valuation studies conducted for Georgia’s protected areas (e.g., UNDP 2024) and other habitats (e.g., urban/peri-urban forests, wetlands) include habitats that support migratory species. These studies assess ecosystem services such as water regulation, carbon sequestration, and cultural/recreational benefits, which are indirectly associated with migratory fauna. Additional work is recommended to explicitly quantify ecosystem services directly linked to migratory species and their habitats.

References:

1. UNDP Georgia, Ecosystem Service Valuation and Cost-Benefit Analysis of Investment in Georgian Protected Areas, Dec 2024.

<https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-12/undp-georgia-ecosystem-service-valuation-brochure-eng.pdf>

2. World Bank, 2025, Nature Pays Off: Conserving Georgia’s Lakes Grows Local Economies.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2025/05/22/nature-pays-off-conserving-georgia-lakes-grows-local-economies>

XV. Safeguarding Genetic Diversity

XV.1. Are strategies of relevance to migratory species being developed or implemented to minimize genetic erosion of biodiversity in your country?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Strategies to be considered under this section do not necessarily have to specifically address migratory species but be of sufficient relevance in relation to the objective of safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild populations.

Yes

Please select the relevant strategies (select all that apply):

Other

>>> Georgia has developed a National Species Restoration Plan to restore viable populations of threatened species and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The plan includes ex situ breeding, selection of donor populations, and post-release monitoring to safeguard genetic diversity. Examples of target species include migratory fish such as trout, as well as plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Local community engagement supports long-term conservation success

XVI. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

XVI.1. Does your country's National Biodiversity Strategy or Action Plan (NBSAP), or other relevant plans or strategies used in your country, explicitly address obligations under CMS, priorities for the conservation and management of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems, and ecological connectivity?

Yes

a. Please provide a link to or attachment of the strategy/action plan

>>> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

b. Please identify the elements in the plan/strategy that are particularly relevant to migratory species, and highlight any specific references to the CMS/CMS instruments

GUIDANCE TIP:

Specify page numbers, section/paragraph numbers etc., where possible.

>>> C.4 - page 81;

C.6 - page 82

Objective C.4-o7. Develop transboundary cooperation with protected areas of neighbouring countries

C.2-o1.14. Develop and implement a water bird conservation management plan

C.2-o1.12. Update and implement the existing Caucasian leopard conservation management plan

C.2-o1.4. Implement the existing programme of goitered gazelle restoration in Georgia

C.2-o1.16. Develop and implement a Georgian sturgeon conservation management plan

c. Please add comments on the implementation of the strategy or action plan concerned.

>>> A Sturgeon monitoring program was developed and agreed among stakeholders; in 2018 the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats Standing Committee adopted Pan-European Conservation Plan for Sturgeons. Georgia's conservation activities in relation to Sturgeons are guided by the above-mentioned international document until the national action plan is adopted.

The goitered gazelle reintroduction project has been in place for 10 years and eventually resulted in a positive outcome. The translocated gazelle individuals in 2025 reached more than 400 individuals and gave birth to the 9th generation on the territory of Georgia. Vashlovani Protected Area administration has actively been monitoring the population.

However in 2023 new protected area - Nugzar Zazanashvili multi-purpose use area (cat. VI) was established in the only Gazelle habitat - Samukhi valley, bordering Azerbaijan. This activity was implemented in order to ensure the protection of the population.

Transboundary cooperation was established between Samtskhe-Javakheti PA and Lake Arpi PA on the Armenian side. The cooperation consisted of the joint monitoring of waterbirds on the volcanic plateau of Javakheti-Arpi.

In 2024 Georgia has approved a National Species Restoration Plan to restore populations of extinct or threatened species and strengthen ecosystem resilience. The plan sets criteria for target species, assesses habitats, and defines legal and management requirements for conservation translocations. Measures include ex situ breeding, adaptation enclosures, release protocols, and post-release monitoring. Priority species include plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The plan was approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture No. 2-804 of October 21, 2024.

XVI.2. Please provide information on the progress of implementation of other relevant action plans (single species, species group, etc.), initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work in your country that have not been addressed in previous questions.

E.g. AEMLAP, Great Green Wall, Bonn Challenge, Action Plans for Birds, Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales, Energy Task Force, Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species, etc.

>>> Georgia was a Chair to the First Range State Meeting for the Persian Leopard in September 2022 in Tbilisi. As a result of 2 day expert meeting the Range-wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard was adopted.

In order to implement the priority objectives of the strategy, during the development/update process of relevant protected areas management plans leopard was considered a key priority species for monitoring and conservation. The positive side in terms of the leopard habitats is that every potential habitat is under protection. This means that if the leopard crosses the borders of Georgia, it will most probably enter the protected area.

Georgia was Chairing the first meeting of focal points of the Pan-European Action Plan for sturgeons in 2022. Within its capacities, Georgia implements the objectives and activities of the Action plan.

Please describe the monitoring and efficacy of measures taken in regard to these relevant action plans, initiatives, task forces, and programmes of work and their integration into delivery against other relevant international agreements.

GUIDANCE TIP:

In answering this question, compilers can provide link to relevant reports under other agreements.

>>> Activities that are planned and implemented in Georgia are fully in line with The Pan-European Action Plan.

The National action plan is not yet developed but is planned in the future.

The Stakeholder Platform of Sturgeon Conservation is an effective tool for communicating challenges, activities with the other sectors.

A long-term Monitoring program for sturgeon species was developed in consultation with the stakeholders.

XVII. Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices of Indigenous and Local Communities

In the absence of a national definition of 'indigenous and local communities', please refer to the Convention on Biological Diversity document **Compilation of Views Received on Use of the Term "Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"** for helpful guidance on these terms.

XVII.1. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to foster consideration for the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Partly / in some areas

XVII.2. During the reporting period, have actions been taken in your country to promote and foster effective participation and involvement of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species, their habitats and migration systems?

Partly / in some areas

If 'yes' or 'partly/in some areas' to either of the preceding two questions, please select which actions have been taken:

(select all that apply)

Engagement initiatives (e.g. as part of development projects)

Management strategies, programmes and action plans that integrate traditional & indigenous interests

Please provide details on the implementation of the actions concerned.

GUIDANCE TIP

Responses to these questions may involve actions, steps, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolution **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans).

>>> Participation and involvement of local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species are guaranteed during the development or update of the protected areas management plans, and the development of Emerald Network management plans. Most of the management plans include information on traditional knowledge and practices, especially in mountainous areas. Local communities also take part in the implementation of conservation measures identified in these plans, including monitoring of key species and awareness-raising activities related to migratory species

XVII.3. How would you rank progress since the previous report in your country in the area of traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species?

1. Little or no progress

Please provide details on the progress made (where applicable).

>>> Unfortunately such progress is not assessed because there were no baseline studies elaborated in order to have a possibility to compare.

XVIII. Knowledge, Data and Capacity-Building

XVIII.1 During the reporting period, which steps taken in your country have contributed to the achievement of the results defined in the area of knowledge, data and capacity building? (Answers given in Section V may be relevant)

(select all that apply)

- Education campaigns in schools
- Public awareness campaigns
- Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives
- Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

XVIII.2 Please describe the contribution these steps have made towards achieving the results defined in Target 15:

GUIDANCE TIP

Steps taken may include actions, programmes, initiatives and/or activities described in CMS documentation, such as Resolutions **14.9** (Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans), Res. **13.3** (Chondrichthyan Species), Res. **13.4** (African Carnivore initiative), Res. **13.5 (Rev.COP14)** (CMS international light pollution guidelines for migratory species), Res. **13.6** (Insect Decline), and Decisions 14.130/14.131 (AEMLAP), 14.134 (Preventing Poisoning of Migratory Birds), 14.148-14.151 (Conservation of African-Eurasian Vultures), Decisions 14.207-14.208 (Renewable Energy and Migratory Species), and 14.182 (Illegal and Unsustainable Taking of Wildlife).

Education campaigns in schools

>>> Under the above-mentioned campaigns, the NGO Society for Nature Conservation – SABUKO has been implementing a series of “challenges” for schools across different regions of the country. These challenges are designed to actively involve teachers and their students in environmental education. Teachers can register their schools to participate, after which they receive a set of engaging tasks and activities developed by the organisation. These tasks aim to increase students’ knowledge and awareness of biodiversity, its protection, and its importance for ecosystems and human well-being. Through this initiative, SABUKO has reached several dozen schools and engaged hundreds of schoolchildren, encouraging a sense of responsibility and curiosity about the natural environment. The program not only strengthens environmental knowledge but also encourages practical actions for nature conservation within local communities.

Public awareness campaigns

>>> The Society for Nature Conservation – SABUKO has been implementing a variety of awareness-raising campaigns aimed at increasing public understanding and appreciation of biodiversity, landscapes, and sustainable practices. These campaigns include sharing informative and inspiring stories through social media platforms, as well as producing documentaries that highlight local landscapes, biodiversity, and traditional pastoralism. These materials are designed to reach a wide audience and foster a stronger connection between people and nature. In addition to digital outreach, the organisation actively participates in public events such as scientific picnics, where SABUKO representatives engage directly with both children and adults. During these events, they present the organisation’s vision, share knowledge about nature conservation, and encourage active involvement in environmental protection.

Knowledge and data-sharing initiatives

>>> Since collected data is best preserved and made accessible when published, significant efforts have been made to prepare and share scientific data through peer-reviewed journals and other scientific platforms. Examples include publications on wintering Little Bustards in Georgia, as well as data related to Eastern Imperial Eagles, Velvet Scoters, and Western Barn Owls. Additionally, research highlighting the importance of the Batumi raptor migration corridor has been published, drawing international attention to Georgia’s role in bird migration monitoring and conservation. These initiatives, led by various organisations, represent crucial tools for data sharing.

Research by academia, research organizations and other relevant stakeholders

>>> Since collected data is best preserved and made accessible when published, significant efforts have been made to prepare and share scientific data through peer-reviewed journals and other scientific platforms. Examples include publications on wintering Little Bustards in Georgia, as well as data related to Eastern Imperial Eagles, Velvet Scoters, and Western Barn Owls. Additionally, research highlighting the importance of the Batumi raptor migration corridor has been published, drawing international attention to Georgia’s role in bird migration monitoring and conservation. These initiatives, led by various organisations, represent crucial tools for data sharing.

XVIII.3 What assistance (if any) does your country require in order to build sufficient capacity to implement

its obligations under the CMS and relevant Resolutions of the COP?
(select all that apply)

- Funding support
- Technical assistance
- Education/training/mentoring
- Provision of equipment or materials
- Exchange of information & know-how
- Mobilizing volunteer effort (e.g. citizen science)

XIX. Resource Mobilization

XIX.1 During the reporting period, has your country made financial or other resources available for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

GUIDANCE TIP:

The “resources” that are relevant here can be financial, human or technical. In addition to funding, “in-kind” forms of support such as staff time or administrative infrastructure could be relevant, as could the loan of equipment, provision of data processing facilities, technology transfer, training or mentoring schemes and other initiatives for capacity building.

Yes, made available for activities within the country

Please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

Increased

XIX.2. During the reporting period, has your country received financial or other resources for conservation activities specifically benefiting migratory species?

Yes

Please select the source(s) concerned (select all that apply):

Other intergovernmental programme

Individual country governments/government agencies (please specify)

>>> Switzerland

Please indicate whether the overall levels of resourcing concerned are the same or different from those in the previous reporting period:

The same

XIX.3. Which are the most important CMS implementation priorities requiring resources and support in your country during future reporting periods?

GUIDANCE TIP:

Please consider answers provided in HLS.3 when answering this question where appropriate, as they may be of relevance.

>>> The main needs for CMS implementation in Georgia are: securing sustainable funding for migratory species conservation; continuing regular monitoring of bird populations and sturgeon distribution, including research conducted by WWF; enhancing regional cooperation and joint programs with neighboring countries; improving capacity through targeted training, mentoring, and technical support; and ensuring access to necessary equipment and data for effective conservation planning and reporting.

Would be helpful to have joint programs with bordering countries, or twinning programs for consultations and non-formal communication among Parties/focal points.